

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07205 131158Z

12

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8961

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7205

NODIS

FOR SISCO AND ATHERTON FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJ: TRANSIT THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL

1. I SAW EVRON IN JERUSALEM YESTERDAY AND PUT TO HIM ROY ATHERTON'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ISRAELIS PLAY DOWN PUBLICITY ON THE CANAL TRANSIT OF ISRAELI CARGO. HE TOOK THE POINT AND SAID THEY WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD TO DAMP DOWN PUBLICITY.

2. AS TO THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE SEABIRD (CAIRO 11393), I NOTE A REPORT IN THE JERUSALEM POST TODAY THAT THE SHIP LEFT ASHDOD LAST NIGHT ON ITS WAY TO THE PERSIAN GULF. IT WAS LOADED WITH 3,000 TONS OF STEEL PIPE AND, AFTER TRANSITING THE CANAL, WOULD CALL AT EILAT TO LOAD THREE LIGHTERS, OF 300 TONS EACH, FOR TRANSPORT TO THE GULF. THE 6,200-TON SHIP WAS TO HAVE A DUTCH MASTER AND A MULTINATIONAL CREW OF 22.

3. THIS REPORT ON THE SEABIRD WAS TACKED ON TO THE END OF A STORY FROM DAMASCUS ABOUT THE BLACKLISTING OF FOREIGN VESSELS WHICH TRANSIT THE CANAL CARRYING GOODS TO OR FROM ISRAEL.

4. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE STORY ABOUT THE SEABIRD WAS IN THE PRESSROOM BEFORE MY TALK WITH EVRON, BUT WE WILL WATCH FOR ANY INDICATIONS OF FURTHER PUBLICITY ON THESE TRANSITS.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CARGO SHIPS, CANALS, SUEZ, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SEABIRD, CAT-C
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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